



לעבן מיטן רבי'ן



טור 'לעבן מיטן רבי'ן' הוקדש לזכרון ולעילוי נשמת
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ר' יקותיאל יהודה
וזוגתו מרת פעסל לאה ומשפחתם שיחיו
רוהר

A Special Anniversary Gift

KISLEV 5741*



Yud-Daled Kislev, the wedding anniversary of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin, was often marked by Chassidim in a special fashion. Typically, Chassidim would celebrate by making *hachlatos* to give the Rebbe *nachas*. However, major milestone years warranted something unique and memorable. Thus, for the fiftieth anniversary (5739*), N'shei U'bnos Chabad commissioned a *sefer Torah* to be written in honor of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin.

In 5741*, the *Sefer Torah* was finally completed. Consequently, the week of Yud-Daled Kislev was particularly joyous and eventful. Presented here is an account of the major highlights of that week.

SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYISHLACH - YUD-DALED KISLEV

As the Rebbe set out to walk home on Friday night, a group of *bochurim* began to sing "*Meheira yishama*." The Rebbe lifted both hands, waved to

encourage the singing, and continued to do so as he walked onto the street.

The next morning, when the Rebbe arrived at 770, he notified that a *farbrengen* would take place that day.

The *farbrengen* began with a long *sicha* on the topic of *chasunah* and an explanation of the *brachos* said at every Jewish wedding. The Rebbe explained that although no two minds are alike (“*ein de’oseihen shavos*”), the *brachos* and *tefillos* are all the same. This is because they tap into the deepest part of the *neshamah*, where all Yidden are intrinsically one and the same.

At the end of the *sicha*, the Rebbe explained the connection between *chasunah* and *geulah*: “Just like there are 12 preparatory months before marriage,¹ there is a similar preparatory stage for the marriage of *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* and the Yidden. However, we are now approaching the end of this period, as ‘*hinei hinei Moshiach ba*’ (Moshiach is already coming).”

The next *sicha* dealt with *mitzvos* that are unique to women, including *neshek*, child-bearing, *taharas hamishpacha*, and *kashrus*. After that *sicha*, the Rebbe said the *maamar* “*V’chol Banayich Limudei Hashem*”² (which is based on the *maamar* that the Friediker Rebbe said the week of the Rebbe’s wedding, at the *ufruf* and *Chosson Mohl Seudah*).

MONDAY - 16 KISLEV

Several years earlier, a group of *N’shei U’bnos Chabad* in Eretz Yisroel commissioned a *sefer Torah* to be written in honor of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin’s fiftieth anniversary (14 Kislev 5739*). Upon the Rebbe’s *hora’ah*, the *sefer Torah* will be housed in the Beis Menachem shul of Kfar Chabad. Numerous people in Eretz Yisroel participated in donating towards this initiative.

When the representatives came to the Rebbe for Yud Shevat 5740*, commemorating 30 years of the *nesius*, the Rebbe instructed them in *yechidus* that the Torah should be completed by the coming Yud-Tes Kislev of 5741*. The Rebbe also told them to purchase two *mantels* for the Torah, one darker *mantel* to be used throughout the year, and a white one for the *Yomim Nora’im*, as well as a silver *yad*. The Rebbe then gave them 44 dollars as his and the Rebbetzin’s participation in the writing of the Torah.



Now, right before Yud-Tes Kislev, the Torah was ready. Since the Rebbe was involved with the *sefer Torah* from its inception and had expressed a great interest at every step, it was decided that an invitation would be sent to the Rebbe and the Rebbetzin, inviting them to come to Eretz Yisroel to personally attend the *siyum sefer Torah*. The invitation was signed by many members of *anash* and supporters of Chabad. Reb Zushe Rivkin, founder and *gabbai* of the Beis Menachem shul, was chosen to deliver the invitation to the Rebbe in person.

On Monday night, Reb Zushe arrived. He had brought with him the invitation bearing the signatures of thousands of *anash* and supporters of Chabad, as well as the silver *yad* that the Rebbe had



requested for the Torah. After Maariv, he waited in *Gan Eden Hatachton* with the signed invitation in his hand. At this point the hallway was abuzz, as many *bochurim* were anticipating this momentous occasion.

The Rebbe welcomed him and said, “*Shalom aleichem* Reb Zushe, when do you depart from here?”

Reb Zushe answered, “*Im yirtzeh Hashem*, tomorrow afternoon at 4:00 p.m.” He then presented the invitation to the Rebbe. The Rebbe gazed at

it for a moment and asked, “Are any of these new signatures?” Reb Zushe responded affirmatively. The Rebbe asked, “What time are you departing from here tomorrow?”

Reb Zushe answered, “The flight is leaving at 6:00.”

The Rebbe replied, “In that case, there will be a short *farbrengen* in honor of the *sefer Torah* tomorrow before you leave. It cannot be tonight, as there is a wedding. But since you have come from Eretz Yisroel especially for this, we will have a *mesibas pereidah* (farewell gathering) tomorrow at 2:00 or 2:30. I will say a few words and the *farbrengen* will continue until Mincha. Leave the silver *yad* with me, I will bring it to the *farbrengen* tomorrow and I will return it to you immediately afterwards. Go and rest, and perhaps by tomorrow Moshiach will already have come.”

Reb Zushe quickly added, “Together with the Rebbe.” To which the Rebbe replied, “Then we will all go together. *Yasher koach gadol* [to you] on behalf of all the *meshalchim*. We will see each other at the *farbrengen* that will take place tomorrow at around 2:15.”

Reb Zushe said, “*Yasher koach gadol*” and turned to leave.

Reb Zushe left the Rebbe’s room, beaming with joy. After he relayed the news about the surprise *farbrengen*, the rejoicing that erupted in 770 was indescribable.

Later that night, several model crowns for the *sefer Torah* were brought to the Rebbe. The Rebbe chose the base of one style crown and the top of another. The two halves were brought to a silversmith who worked overnight soldering them together. Although the Torah already had a crown in Kfar Chabad, this crown was a gift from the Rebbe. In addition, the Rebbe had also ordered a silver *yad* for the “*Sefer Torah Shel Moshiach*.”

TUESDAY - 17 KISLEV

When the Rebbe arrived in 770 he informed *mazkirus* that the *farbrengen* would be at 2:30 and would last for one hour.

As per schedule, at 2:30 the Rebbe entered the *farbrengen* accompanied by the singing of “We Want Moshiach Now.” In his hand the Rebbe held his *siddur* and a paper bag with the signed invitation. Walking right behind the Rebbe was





Rabbi Groner, holding the silver crown and the silver *yad*, which he laid down next to the Rebbe.

The Rebbe opened the farbrengen by recalling a letter from the Frieddiker Rebbe which says that several days before a *siyum sefer Torah*, it is announced throughout the city. The Rebbe added that nowadays, since we have greater opportunities for publicity, we must make a special effort to ensure that the message gets out and has its maximum impact. This is especially the case here,

as the message is about an inclusive *sefer Torah* that unites Jews worldwide.

The Rebbe elaborated regarding the importance of writing a *sefer Torah*, the significance of the fact that the *siyum* is in Eretz Yisroel, and its connection to the *geulah* of Yud-Tes Kislev. As an aside, the Rebbe emphasized how unique it is that the inspiration to write the Torah came about through *n'shei Chabad* and only later garnered momentum among the men. This is reminiscent of how Moshe addressed the Yidden at *matan Torah*, first “*Ko somar l'beis Yaakov*” which alluded to the women, and only then “*v'sageid l'bnei Yisroel*” referring to the men.

Addressing all those who are not able to personally attend the *siyum Sefer Torah*, the Rebbe said that the Baal Shem Tov's teaching, that “*b'makom shemachshavto shel adam, sham hu nimtza*” (where a person's thoughts are, that is where he is), is not a figurative expression, rather he is actually present there!”

The Rebbe continued: Since we want everybody to be part of the *siyum Sefer Torah*, we will donate a *kesser* for this Torah on behalf of everyone. This way everyone will have the *zechus* in participating in this *sefer Torah* (as “*zachin l'adam shelo befanav*”).

At the end of the *sicha*, the Rebbe said: “The *gabbai* of the shul in Kfar Chabad is here with us now at the behest of his community, and he has been especially active in this project, so we will appoint him as a “*shliach l'holacha*” to represent all those involved, and take the *kesser* together with the *tzedakah* funds raised here back to Eretz Yisroel. This *tzedakah* will be distributed in Eretz Yisroel on behalf of all those present at the farbrengen here and everywhere else.”

After this *sicha*, the Rebbe poured Reb Zushe a cup of *mashke* and told him to say *l'chaim*. Then, the Rebbe stood up, and announced “*B'shem kol ha'kahal*” and handed him the *kesser*, *yad*, and *tzedakah* money for Eretz Yisroel. When the Rebbe stood up, so did everyone else and the energy was palpable.

He then gave Reb Zushe a bottle of *mashke* and instructed him to mix it with other *mashke* and to distribute it to the attendees at the *siyum sefer Torah*. Reb Zushe *bentched* the Rebbe that he should be the one to place the *kesser* on the Torah in Eretz Yisroel, and the Rebbe answered *amen*.

The Rebbe then summoned the silversmith who had made the original *kesser*, poured him *l'chaim*,

handed him a piece of cake, and gave him a *bracha* that he should be *zoche* to make many more crowns for *sifrei Torah* and to learn and keep what is written in the Torah.

At the end of the *farbrengen*, after several *niggunim* were sung, the Rebbe said: “We will now daven Mincha and as the Gemara says, “One should always be scrupulous regarding Mincha as Eliyahu Hanavi was only answered for Mincha.” We will all proclaim “*Havaye hu ha'Elokim, Havaye hu ha'Elokim*”³ and may we accomplish *b'ruchnius* all that *karbanos* accomplished in the *Beis Hamikdash*.” The Rebbe then concluded with a *bracha* for the *geulah*.

As the Rebbe left the *farbrengen*, a *mazkir* rushed over and asked what Reb Zushe was to do with the dollar bills upon his arrival in Eretz Yisroel. The Rebbe replied that he should give them to the *vaad ruchni* of Kfar Chabad and they will do whatever they think is best. **❶**

1. Mishnah Kesubos 5:2.

2. This *maamer* was *mugah* in 5748 and was printed in “*Kuntres Yud-Daled Kislev 5748*.”

3. This was alluding to the episode with Eliyahu and the Yidden at Har HaCarmel, where the Yidden proclaimed “ה' הוא האלוקים” after Eliyahu offered his *korban*.

